

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An aqueous ink ~~comprising~~consisting essentially of a dispersant, a colorant, and an aqueous medium, wherein the dispersant is a crosslinked copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and ~~containing~~consists essentially of (A) a crosslinkable monomer having two or more vinyl groups in one molecule, (B) an aromatic group-containing monomer, and (C) an ionic monomer.

2. (currently amended): The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the above dispersant is a crosslinked copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and ~~comprising~~consists essentially of 0.01 to 5 mol% of (A) ~~a~~the crosslinkable monomer having two or more vinyl groups in one molecule, 30 to 90 mol% of (B) ~~an~~the aromatic group-containing monomer, and 5 to 65 mol% of (C) ~~an~~the ionic monomer.

3. (original): The aqueous ink according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the (C) ionic monomer as a constituting component of the above dispersant is an anionic monomer.

Claim 4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of the above dispersant to the colorant contained is 1:1 to 1:30 (mass ratio).

6. (previously presented): The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a pigment.

7. (previously presented): The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is carbon black.

8. (new): An aqueous ink consisting essentially of a dispersant, a colorant, and an aqueous medium, wherein the dispersant is a crosslinked copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and consists essentially of (A) a crosslinkable monomer having two or more vinyl groups in one molecule, (B) an aromatic group-containing monomer, and (C) a cationic monomer.

9. (new): The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the above dispersant is a crosslinked copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and consisting essentially of 0.01 to 5 mol% of (A) the crosslinkable monomer having two or more vinyl groups in one molecule, 30 to 90 mol% of (B) the aromatic group-containing monomer, and 5 to 65 mol% of (C) the cationic monomer.

10. (new): The aqueous ink according to claim 9, wherein a ratio of the above dispersant to the colorant contained is 1:1 to 1:30 (mass ratio).

11. (new): The aqueous ink according to claim 9, wherein the colorant is a pigment.

12. (new): The aqueous ink according to claim 9, wherein the colorant is carbon black.
13. (new): The aqueous ink according to claim 1 which is an inkjet ink and the colorant is a pigment having a particle size of from about 0.005 μm to 15 μm .
14. (new): The aqueous ink according to claim 9 which is an inkjet ink and the colorant is a pigment having a particle size of from about 0.005 μm to 15 μm .